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THTR 101L.51: Introduction to Theatre

Joel W. Shura

University of Montana, Missoula

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Introduction to Theatre THTR 101L - 51 – 3 Credits – Online
School of Theatre & Dance University of Montana Spring 2017
Literary, Culture & Artistic Studies Course

Instructor – Joel Shura Email – joel.shura@umontana.edu
Office – The Education Building Lobby
Office Hours – Fridays 1 – 3 PM
Phone – 406-243-4481

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a foundational understanding of THEATRE as a creative art form, practical craft, and critical field of cultural study. It is designed to introduce the student to historical and contemporary forms of theatrical art and practice within the American and European tradition. Students will explore the collaborative nature of theatre through the integration of various methods of acting, directing, dramaturgy, design (lighting, set, properties, and costume), and production. Students will also explore and compare differing objectives of theatrical performance (for instance, theatre as ritual, worship, activism, entertainment, or education). **They will experience selected European and American canonical theatre texts through reading research, writing, script analysis, scene study and performance review. Students will thereby gain the skills to analyze classical and contemporary theatrical traditions through reading, research, and the shared experience of attending live theatre.**

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Through in-class exercises, live demonstrations by practitioners, and regular attendance at and analysis of live performances students will learn to:

- Understand theatricality and performance as it pertains to their own life, be it what they see on stage, screen, or in line at the grocery store;
- Analyze the structure and significance of theatrical works of art within their respective context including movements and forms within the American and European theatrical tradition;
- Critique the work of significant practitioners throughout history, as well as that of contemporary artists;
- Develop coherent arguments that critique these works from a variety of approaches, such as historical, aesthetic, cultural, psychological, political, and philosophical; and
- Apply theoretical approaches to theatre through script analysis and critical essays that foster an appreciation of their own significant role as audience members and critics.

ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

Introduction to Theatre (THTR101L-51) is an Online/ Distance Learning Course. Attendance will be determined by each student's participation in weekly Assignments, Virtual Discussion Forums, Written Responses, and Personal/Group Projects through the University of Montana's Online Course Platform, Moodle. Each week, all students must log into Moodle to complete the given week's assignments. ALL assignments must be completed to receive full attendance for that week.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENT STRUCTURE

This class will operate on a MONDAY - SUNDAY schedule, meaning that each of our lessons will begin on MONDAYS at 12:00am and end on SUNDAYS at 11:55 pm. New assignments will be available to

the class starting at 12:00am each MONDAY, beginning January, 23 2017. Each week's assignments will vary and their respective due dates and times for each will be provided when the assignment becomes available. There will be set assignments that will be due on WEDNESDAY at 11:55pm of each week and there will be secondary assignments that will be due SUNDAY at 11:55pm of the same week, depending on the time required to complete the assignment.

All assignments with a required due date for submission will NOT be accepted any later than 11:55pm. This policy includes assignment submissions of all types, including quiz answers. **IN NORMAL SCENARIOS, THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY UNLESS STATED PRIOR TO DUE DATE.**

Students are responsible for knowing how to properly use Moodle to complete all assignments. There is a link to the Moodle101 course provided for this purpose. Incomplete assignments (such as "draft" uploads) due to incorrect usage of Moodle will not be accepted and will receive zero credit.

EMAIL & ANNOUNCEMENTS POLICY

As this is an online course, students are required to check their university email daily for announcements or personal emails (if students choose not to check their university email, they should have their university email forwarded to an account they do check daily). Most announcements will also be posted on Sundays or Wednesdays, in the announcements forum on the Moodle page.

If you have general questions please post in the forum and I will answer as promptly as possible in the forum discussion. Please use my email for individual questions. I typically check email at least once a day during school hours (M-F, 9 am - 4 pm). Please make sure you email with enough time to allow me at least 24 hours to reply.

ABSENTEE POLICY

Completion of course work is the only measure for attendance in this online class. More than ONE (1) week without submitting assignments will result in your final grade being lowered one full letter grade.

If for some reason you are unable to complete a given assignment deadline you must contact me immediately via university email. If you do have advance notice of your inability to complete an assignment and gain attendance, you will need to provide me with at least 72 hours (3 days) notice to give you the opportunity to either complete the assignment prior to "absence" or schedule a "make up" assignment for you to complete with a new deadline.

If you have an emergency and are unable to complete an assignment to gain attendance please contact me via university email as soon as you are able to so that we may discuss your situation and options to "make up" your assignments. If possible, please provide documentation as to your absence, Ex: Doctors Note.

FINAL EXAMINATION

A Project/Presentation will count as the Final Examination for this course. The assignment will consist of a project where you will delve into a specific area of theatre that most interests you. The Final Project will be due no later than 11:55 pm on May 5th, 2017.

REQUIRED TEXTS & COURSE MATERIALS

You have been provided with the ISBN numbers so that you may purchase the specific text from which I will be working. A majority of the assignments will provide the page number or section to be read from these specific texts. It is VERY important that you purchase the specific text provided to insure you are reading the correct materials.

- *What We Do: Working in the Theatre* By: Bo Metzler Publisher: Infinity Publishing (November 21, 2008) ISBN-10: 0741450046 ISBN-13: 978-0741450043 –
- *Medea* By: Euripides Publisher: Dover Publications; Rep Una edition (April 19, 1993) ISBN-10: 0486275485 ISBN-13: 978-0486275482
- *Poetics* By: Aristotle Publisher: Dover Publications (Mar 12, 1997) ISBN-10: 048629577X ISBN-13: 9780486295770
- *Noises Off* By: Michael Frayn; Samuel French Publishing: (1985): ISBN 9780573619694
- *Thinner Than Water* By: Melissa Ross; Dramatist Play Services: (2015): ISBN: 978-0822232193

There will be copies of these texts available at the University of Montana Bookstore under the course code and section, THTR 101-LY. You can also find copies of this script online for purchase through Amazon. Amazon has all of these texts for \$16 or less.

Students must have access to a working computer with consistent word processing and internet access, as well as working audio and audio/visual recording devices (smart phones or webcams are sufficient).

There will also be small personal projects that will require personal supplies to complete; craft supplies, found objects and other resources. (If this is an expense that you are unable to make please contact me so we can discuss options for alternative projects.)

COURSE GRADING TIER

A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=59 and below (You will have some small opportunities to gain extra credit. These extra credit projects will be built into the course throughout the semester.)

COURSE GRADE COMPONENTS

This is a list of the individual components of the course and the percentage each component will account toward your final grade.

- Discussion Board Responses & Concept Checks: 20%
- Personal Expression Projects: 10%
- Semester Reading Assignment & Quizzes: 20%
- Critical Response Essays: 25%
- Final Personal Project/Presentation: 25%

PRODUCTION ATTENDANCE

As a student of the Introduction to Theatre Course, you are required to attend three of UM School of Theatre & Dance's theatrical performances produced this semester. This is a mandatory element of this course. The Materials Fee you paid when you registered for this course allows you to obtain ONE ticket for these shows at no additional expense. We do encourage you to bring friends and family; however the cost of additional tickets must be purchased at the student's or other patron's expense.

**Any student(s) taking this course as a distance learning course and have no means of attending the productions performed at the main University of Montana's, Missoula campus need to contact me as soon as the course begins to discuss procedures. Students will be required to find and attend productions in their area, at their own expense, and must get them approved by me prior to attendance. **

If you miss one performance, your final average will be dropped ONE FULL LETTER GRADE. If you miss two performances, your final average will be dropped TWO FULL LETTER GRADES. If you do

not attend ANY of the performances, you will receive a FAILING GRADE for the entire course. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY.

Ticket Information: Each student must pick up their ticket, in person, at the UMArts Box Office, located in the lobby of the PARTV Center. The Box Office hours are January 17-May 12, Tuesdays-Fridays from noon-6P plus one hour before a performance. Each student is allotted ONE ticket for each of the three productions you will attend. (No student can pick up any other student(s) ticket(s)!) You must present your Griz Card to pick up your ticket and you must identify which class you are taking. Therefore you must know your section number and instructor's name.

You are in: THTR101L: Section 51. Your instructor's name is: Joel Shura

Seating in the Masquer Theatre is open. Seating in the Montana Theatre is assigned.

The fee that you have paid does not guarantee you a ticket on a particular night, nor does it guarantee that you will be able to get a ticket if the show sells out. Do not wait until the evening of the performance you plan to attend to pick up a ticket.

Exchange Policy: If you need to exchange a ticket that you have already picked up and it is BEFORE the performance date listed on the ticket there is a \$2 Exchange Fee that is assessed. If you need to exchange a ticket and the performance date is AFTER the date listed on the ticket and you need a new ticket, you will need to purchase a NEW ticket at the FULL STUDENT PRICE.

REQUIRED PRODUCTIONS

You have free tickets to these shows! The three productions you will be seeing this semester are:

- Barefoot in the Park : January 21, 26-28, February 2, 4, 2017 / Montana Theatre
- Thinner Than Water : February 22-26, March 1-5, 2017/ Masquer Theatre
- Noises Off : April 19-23 and 26-30, 2017/ Masquer Theatre

All evening performances will begin at 7:30pm. Occasionally matinee performances are also available. The House will be open 30 minutes prior to the performance. (It is advised that you plan to arrive to the performance early to ensure you are not late.)

There is a chance that once the performance begins you will be unable to enter the theater for any reason. If you are unable to attend the full performance due to tardiness you will have to purchase a new ticket for the full student ticket price

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT & THE STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php.

COURSE ACCOMMODATION

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities,

instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). “Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <http://life.umt.edu/dss/>.

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154.1 will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation.

THEATER & DANCE POLICIES

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance Student Handbook. The Handbook is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/About/handbook.php>.

There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.*

Due to safety considerations, at no point during a student’s time spent in class or serving on a production (in any capacity) should non-enrolled persons be guests of that student without my consent. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student’s grade.

*(This course is an Online/Distance Learning based course. As a student taking a course with the School of Theatre & Dance you must be aware and abide by ALL of these policies. You may not be entering a classroom, studio, shop or rehearsal but if for some reason you are to visit Theatre & Dance’s buildings, such as while attending productions, please respect the code of conduct.)